

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 SPC-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-10 L-02 DRC-01 /070 W
----- 118450

R 161516Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2192

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4578

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MCAP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF AFCENT HEADQUARTERS
FROM THE NETHERLANDS

REF: (A) USNATO 4838

(B) THE HAGUE 4295 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CALL ON STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE
STEMERDINK OCT 15 (SEPTTEL), DCM SASKED ABOUT QUESTIONS
DURING RECENTLY CONCLUDED BUDGET DEBATES
OVER POSSIBLE AFCENT RELOCATION. BOTH OPPOSITION
LEADER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COALITION PARTIES
ASKED GON TO OPPOSE ANY TRANSFER OF AFCENT
FROM BRUNSSUM. STEMERDINK, WHO EXPECTED SEE RESULTS
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OF NATO STUDY BEFORE END OF MONTH, SAID REMOVAL OF

AFCENT TO GERMANY DID NOT GIVE HIM PERSONALLY OR MOD
ANY PROBLEM SINCE MOD WOULD JUDGE QUESTION ON PURELY
MILITARY BASIS. HE DID ADMIT, HOWEVER, RELOCATION
COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS TO CERTIAN MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
(HE SPECIFIED KVP MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS),
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN LIMBURG.

2. DURING BUDGET DEBATES, PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL DID
NOT CHOOSE TO ADDRESS IN ANY DETAIL VARIOUS STATEMENTS
ON NEED FOR AFCENT'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN BRUNSSUM.
GIVEN GON'S COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE RATIONALIZATION, GON
WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY TO RESIST STRICTLY MILITARY DECISION
WHICH AIMS AT DEFENSE SAVINGS, ETC. NEVERTHELESS,
POLITICAL PRESSURES ON GOVERNMENT (ESPECIALLY FROM
COALITION'S SECOD LARGEST PARTY, KVP, WHICH HAS
CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH IN LIMBURG) TO RETAIN AFCENT AT
BRUNSSUM SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.
GOULD

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